



GUIDANCE

HEALTH & SAFETY CRITERIA UNDER WHICH INSPECTIONS MAY NOT BE CARRIED OUT

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Reference: The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and Approved Code of Practice.

SITUATION:

SAFed Member Companies regard the health and safety of their Engineer Surveyors as their top priority. During each inspection an Engineer Surveyor will risk assess the situation and request any additional health and safety assistance that he/she may need. This document aims to outline those situations in which an inspection should not be carried out due to the health and safety risks being too great. Owner/users will be aware that under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, Section 3 and 4, they have specific responsibilities for persons on their site, e.g. SAFed Engineer Surveyors.

GUIDANCE

- 1.1 SAFed Member Companies have carried out generic risk assessments of their activities and provide their Engineer Surveyors with the necessary training, equipment and procedures to control those risks.
- 1.2 At each inspection an Engineer Surveyor will perform an on-site risk assessment to ensure that it is safe for him/her to proceed (This may not be documented). If the Engineer Surveyor has any concerns, they will be discussed with the client so that a safe working environment can be achieved.
- 1.3 SAFed Member Companies aim to work constructively with clients to ensure that their plant and equipment is inspected safely and efficiently. However, in certain circumstances it may be necessary to postpone an inspection when the health and safety risks are too great. Such circumstances include:
 - a) Where there is no suitable rescue procedure when the Engineer Surveyor is working at height (see SAFed document HSC 01).
 - b) Where there is no suitable rescue procedure when the Engineer Surveyor is working in a confined space (see SAFed document HSC 02).
 - c) Where the Engineer Surveyor is working alone and this represents an unacceptable health, safety or security risk (see SAFed document HSC 03).
 - d) Where the inspection creates an unacceptable risk to other people in the vicinity, e.g. there are no barriers to prevent people falling into a lift shaft (see SAFed document HSC 04).
 - e) Where there is no safe access to the item that is to be inspected (see SAFed document HSC 05).
 - f) Where there is an unacceptable risk of inhaling loose asbestos fibres or other hazardous substance. Where a potential risk is suspected from ACM's (Asbestos Containing Materials) the surveyor should request that an asbestos survey report be provided and then proceed accordingly.



- g) Where there is an unacceptable risk of the Engineer Surveyor being attacked by animals or people in the location of the inspection.
 - h) Where there is any other unacceptable health, safety or security risk identified by the Engineer Surveyor.
- 1.4 Postponing an inspection due to health and safety risks not only ensures that no one is injured but also prevents the companies involved becoming subjected to accident investigations and potential legal action.
- 1.5 If an inspection is postponed due to health and safety reasons, the SAFed Member Company will provide all reasonable assistance to help the client resolve those issues.

Appendix 1 — Other walk away situations

1. Other walk away situations may include:

- a) When presented with unsafe access equipment such a damaged and/or sub-standard ladder, scaffolding without a current inspection report, an uninspected MEWP etc.
- b) When presented with no safe place to conduct the inspection due to vehicle movements in the vicinity or the risk of moving or falling objects.
- c) Any situation where the individual feels under pressure to complete the inspection in an unsafe manner.
- d) Situations where another work activity may impact on the inspection (e.g. others working overhead, hot work in the vicinity, etc) or the inspection may adversely affect others in the area.
- e) Lack of competent assistance to operate the plant.
- f) When presented with no means to isolate the plant from sources of energy.
- g) When asked to complete the examination in DSEAR zoned areas without adequate controls.
 - The Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (DSEAR) require employers to control the risks to safety from fire and explosions.
- h) Where there are no emergency arrangements in place to deal with fire or explosion or there are no means of communicating with the Surveyor.
- i) Situations where there is an unacceptable slip and trip risk, e.g. due to inadequate lighting, poor housekeeping etc.
- j) Unacceptable environment conditions, e.g. extreme weather.